



Drive away with a \$5000
Greenwich shopping trip.

play now!

avenue rally



boston.com Arts & Entertainment

your connection to **The Boston Globe**

GREATER BOSTON BOSTON GLOBE EVENTS YELLOW PAGES

SEARCH BETA

THINGS TO DO

6 FRI 7 SAT 8 SUN 9 MON 10 TUE



Home News **A&E** Business Sports Travel Your Life Cars Jobs Real Estate Yellow Pages

Sign In Register Now

Movies Restaurants Food Calendar Music Theater/Arts TV **Books** Celebrity news Games

HOME > A&E > BOOKS

Short Takes

The Boston Globe

March 25, 2007

Karma and Other Stories

By Rishi Reddi

Harper Perennial, 224 pp., paperback, \$12.95

Overexposed as the classic immigrant narrative is in the American imagination, there are newer, more diverse experiences that are only now finding their voice. This collection of short fictions treats one of those contemporary variations, the story of upper-middle-class immigrants from India drawn to Boston and its suburbs, professionals who eagerly assimilate into the plush American economy while holding themselves apart from the culture and society.

But the Indian communities-in-exile to which they cling for support and stability can seem claustrophobic to some. Nothing could be more pathetically innocent than the acquaintance that has developed between housewife Lakshmi Chundi and her local librarian, Elias Filian, but it is enough to inflame her compatriots' narrow minds and set tongues wagging. In another story, a rebellious young Indian American woman is horrified -- but also secretly envious -- when her best friend gives in to an arranged marriage.

Too much tradition for some is not nearly enough for others. Two touching stories tell of elderly Indian parents who, in coming to live with their prosperous children in America, have left behind what they value most -- their essence, their reality -- for a place that is not and never can be home.

Amanda Heller is a critic and editor who lives in Newton. ■

© Copyright 2007 Globe Newspaper Company.

ADVERTISEMENT

Find Your Graduating Class



I graduated in:

1997

1987

1977

1967

1957



classmates.com

LATEST A&E NEWS

- ▶ [Nicolas Cage film to be shot in India](#)
- ▶ [Martha Stewart picks space pal's menu](#)
- ▶ [Cheap Masters tickets provide priceless memories](#)
- ▶ [Johansson likes to flirt, be mysterious](#)
- ▶ [Chilly start to second round at Augusta](#)
- ▶ [More A&E news](#)

SEARCH THE ARCHIVES

GO

All Globe stories since 2003 are now FREE

Today

Past 30 days

Yesterday

Last 12 months